



# BRIEFS TO AG EDUCATORS

March 2003, Volume XI, Issue VII

## NEW/BEGINNING TEACHER COLUMN

by: *Joanna Wilson, Ag Educator*

Has the day started already? What do I have to make sure I tell them today? Do I have all my copies ready? What practices do I have tonight, square dance or demonstration, or do I actually have a free night? Is there something going on this weekend that they need to know? These are just a few of the questions I ask every morning. Crazy, is usually what I tell myself, after I answer all of my morning questions and then I remind myself how much I enjoy the students and their imaginations, and unpredictable comments and answers. My days seem to be like roller coasters.

I have had so many joys, surprises, frustrations and laughs as a first-year teacher; I hardly know where to start, although I do know that I will experience these emotions every year from here on out. Watching proud parents, students' smiles, students expressing their excitement after getting the results from the CDE contests, students walking across the stage to receive their Keystone degrees, a square dance team receiving a blue ribbon, or a demonstration team receiving fifth place, those are just a few of my joyous moments. Surprises and laughs seem to come on a daily basis; I just never know what they are going to say next, and this definitely keeps my job interesting.

*(Continued on page 5)*

## IN THIS ISSUE...

**PAGE 2... SITES OF INTEREST**

**PAGE 3... INTRODUCING...DIANE GLOCK, FFA FACILITATOR**

**PAGE 4... TURFGRASS & AG EQUIPMENT..., AGED ADVOCACY ISSUES**

**PAGE 5... REPORTING PSU CREDITS FOR ACT 48..., HORTICULTURE**

**INSTITUTE, IPM LAW UPDATE BOOKLET**

**PAGE 6...CALENDAR**



## Dennis Avery - Keynote Speaker at Summer Conference



From 1980-1988, Dennis T. Avery served as agricultural analyst for the U.S. Department of State, where he was responsible for assessing the foreign-policy implications of food and farming developments worldwide. At Hudson, Avery continues to monitor developments in world food production, farm product demand, the safety and security of

food supplies, and the sustainability of world agriculture. As a staff member of the President's National Advisory Commission on Food and Fiber, he wrote the Commission's landmark report, "Food and Fiber for the Future."

Avery studied agricultural economics at Michigan State University and the University of Wisconsin. He holds awards for outstanding performance from three different government agencies and was awarded the National Intelligence Medal of Achievement in 1983.

Dennis Avery will be the keynote speaker on July 8th at the NAAE Region VI and PAAE Summer Conference at Delaware Valley College, Doylestown, PA. For more information on the conference, see the inserts in this issue of the *Briefs* or go to [www.paae.org/Convention.htm#Convention%202003%20Information](http://www.paae.org/Convention.htm#Convention%202003%20Information)

# Sites of Interest

## Sustaining Pennsylvania Agriculture web site has been updated !

The site has a new look, a new emphasis, and loads of new information for farmers, growers, and educators.

Your invited to take a look at this updated web site, "Sustaining Pennsylvania Agriculture . . . through Science and Education" by going to <http://susag.cas.psu.edu/>

The emphasis in the re-development of this website is to provide college research and extension based information on: agricultural production practices, management assistance, and marketing strategies, as well as to promote the impacts of our research, teaching, and extension programs.

## Variety of Lesson Plans

[http://aged.ces.uga.edu/lessons/high\\_school\\_lesson\\_plans.htm](http://aged.ces.uga.edu/lessons/high_school_lesson_plans.htm) is filled with lesson plans for agricultural education programs. The lessons range from public speaking to forestry to animal science and leadership. All lessons are free and offer some new ideas.



## Forestry Resources

The Sustainable Forestry Teachers Resource Center; K-12 grade curriculum from PSU Website: <http://sftrc.cas.psu.edu>; full story on <http://aginfo.psu.edu/News/december02/teachers.html>



"Foundational Skills Curriculum at the High School Level;" Forest & Wood

Industry Website: <http://teachaboutwood.org>; you must register but there is no cost. The site is hosted by Penn College of Technology. There are many lessons that are linked to standards, etc.

## Forestry Lesson Plans

Are you looking for some lesson plans for your high school forestry course? At [www.algomaforest.com](http://www.algomaforest.com) under "The Teacher's Forest" you can find lesson plans and an on-line key to identify common North America Trees.



## Invasive Species Lessons/Activities

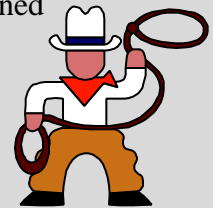
[www.invasivespecies.gov](http://www.invasivespecies.gov) is the gateway to Federal efforts concerning invasive species such as terrestrial plants and animals, aquatic and wetlands plants and animals and microbes.



For example, lesson plans and resources for the African honeybee/killer bee can be found from the site listed above or you can go to [www.invasivespecies.gov/profiles/africanbee.shtml](http://www.invasivespecies.gov/profiles/africanbee.shtml).

## It's About AG

A website designed with farmers in mind. Ropin' the Web has everything you need to stay on top of Agri-business. Topics include: agencies, trade, livestock, publications, marketing, crops and more. Go to [www.agric.gov.ab.ca/navigation/toolbar/sitemap/index.html](http://www.agric.gov.ab.ca/navigation/toolbar/sitemap/index.html). For information specific to agricultural education visit [www.agric.gov.ab.ca/ruraldev/aic/resources](http://www.agric.gov.ab.ca/ruraldev/aic/resources).



*If you know of any interesting websites and would like to share them with other educators, please email the website to Tiffany Hoy at [tmr175@psu.edu](mailto:tmr175@psu.edu).*

# Introducing... Diane Glock

“The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams.” – Eleanor Roosevelt

Diane Glock is a living example of Eleanor Roosevelt’s quote. She didn’t always aspire to be an agricultural educator. Actually she didn’t realize until late into her bachelor’s degree that she longed for something more, like teaching. That’s when she remember that Dr. Baker, her high school agriculture educator, encouraged Diane many times to look at being an agriculture educator. Diane had the dream of finding a fulfilling career which would allow her to share her knowledge and to stay close to the family dairy farm. That’s when it hit her to become an agricultural educator.

Diane is currently employed at Juniata High School in Mifflintown, PA. She teaches forty-three 9-12<sup>th</sup> grade students. Her curriculum is in the areas of animal production and agricultural mechanics. Recently Diane wrote new curriculum for courses based on the *Visions for Agricultural Education Handbook*.

Diane admits having her own classroom and students is very different from her student teaching experience with MeeCee Baker and Krista Pontius at Greenwood High School and Merrill Brofee at

West Perry High School. Diane was fortunate enough to have a split teaching experience program designed by her master’s degree professors at North Carolina State University and MeeCee Baker, NC State Adjunct Professor and PA Agricultural Educator. “Throughout student teaching everyone reminded me not to take things personally, yet it was hard going from a college environment where you are liked, successful and known to a classroom where the students could care less if you showed up (for the most part). It was a very humbling experience.”

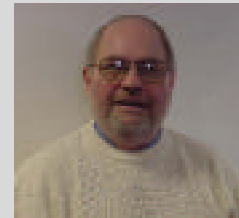
Now in her own classroom she has discovered two key items that she did not learn while student teaching – uninterested audience and gossiping teachers. “I think it is hard to adjust your lessons to an uninterested audience... especially not knowing them initially. No matter how you think you can prepare for a class, you still have to get inside the classroom and know who your students are. In return, they have to know you are interested in them, or they will ultimately not give you the time of day. And then you walk into the teachers’ lounge where you find grown adults gossiping about their students. I need to judge them for myself and not listen to what others have to say about the teenagers. Students can tell when you have made pre-judgement on them and will

react to your judgement.”

Diane learns new things every day, but never loses sight of her dream to be an outstanding agricultural educator and helping with the family dairy farm. She hopes to obtain her master’s and doctoral degrees from North Carolina State University and to also further develop the family show herd of Holstein cattle.

Please welcome Diane Glock into the PA Agricultural Education Family.

## FFA Facilitator



PDE,  
Bureau of  
Career  
and  
Technical  
Educa-

tion is pleased to announce the hiring of Clifford J. Day, Jr. as the FFA facilitator.

Cliff taught agricultural education for 32 years at Garden Spot HS. He served as the Eastern Region FFA Coordinator for 12 years, Chairman of the Career Development Events (CDE) Committee, and chaired the scoring/recording committee at FFA Week for the past 18 years. He has received the Honorary Keystone and Honorary American FFA Degrees. Recently Cliff was honored by the PA FFA with the Blue and Gold Award.

## Turfgrass & Ag Equipment Service Technicians Program

Fall 2002 saw the start of a new educational opportunity for students interested in the turfgrass and agricultural machinery industry. The

Department of Agricultural and Biological Engineering at The Pennsylvania State

University offered the first classes in the Turfgrass and Agricultural Equipment Service Technicians Program. This is an Outreach, Cooperative Extension, and Continuing Education sequence of classes over a two-year period. There are four eight-week sessions offered during the two-year period. The fall session begins in mid-October and ends in mid-December with the spring session resuming in mid-January and finishing in mid-March. Students are encouraged to participate in a six-month internship program, mid-March to mid-October, working in the turfgrass or agricultural machinery industry between the spring session of the first year and the fall session of the second year.

Topics covered in the four eight-week sessions include engine technology, hydraulics, electronics, machinery and people management, safety and

safety training, business concepts and writing, computer applications, agronomy and turfgrass principles, equipment operation, irrigation,

shop management, inventory control and fabrication.

Nationally there is a continuing shortage of

qualified equipment technicians in both turfgrass and agricultural machinery industry with estimates of more than 30,000 jobs available for trained technicians.

Applications are now being accepted for the 2003 fall class, which will begin in October. Applications and high school transcripts are accepted on a continuing basis but should be received by midnight, April 1, 2003 for the first selection and offer sequence. Successful applicants in the first round of offers will be notified by April 25, 2003. Applications received after April 1 will be processed on an individual basis until the class is filled. Class sizes are limited. Applications are available on-line at [www.age.psu.edu/tae/](http://www.age.psu.edu/tae/) or by contacting James Hilton at 814-863-1817 or by email [jwh2@psu.edu](mailto:jwh2@psu.edu).



## AgEd Advocacy Issues

by: Gerald Reichard, PAAE Pres.

Agricultural educators in the Commonwealth have immensely benefited by the work of our Legislative Advisor, Fred Brown. Proceeds of the PAAE Summer Institute and individual contributions have contributed to his honorarium over the past number of years. Some of the recent legislative successes for agricultural education have included Agricultural Literacy Act 26 of 1996, Senator Waugh's School Excused Leave for Education Programs, and the continuation of funds for all vocational education programs, regardless of the number of approved vocational programs per school district. Your state association has also sent letters of support for the PDA Rural Youth Grants and the PDE FFA Facilitator position.

This past year, PAAE has received support from PA Farm Bureau and other state agriculture organizations in an effort to improve agricultural education's standing in the PA Academic Standards. It is our goal to solicit support for a separate Agricultural Education Standards. The PA Farm Bureau did approve a resolution to support an effort to develop an Agricultural Education Standards and we are also gaining support from leaders in the state legislature.

## Reporting PSU Credits for Act 48 Credits/Hours

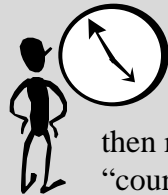
If you have taken a course for credit from Penn State and would like to use it towards Act 48 credits/hours you must go to [www.psu.edu/registrar/act48/act48.html#Act\\_48](http://www.psu.edu/registrar/act48/act48.html#Act_48) or go to [www.psu.edu](http://www.psu.edu) and select search, type in the words "Act 48" and select the one which has reporting listed in the sub-information. From there you will have two categories to select from - credit and non-credit. Click on whichever one fits your needs. It will then give you two choices - current student or former student - read the descriptions to see which fits your criteria. Once you make your selection it will ask you for your Penn State account information - this is your Penn State email address without @psu.edu on the end and your password. (If you never received this information when you took the course, you can hit create an

account and complete the information.)

Once you enter your Penn State account information, and hit return - your courses that can be forwarded to PDE should appear. Select which courses you would like to report by clicking on the left column. Then hit submit or send to PDE. You will then receive a note that states, "courses have been reported on (date sent)."

NOTE: Penn State does not automatically send your completed courses taken for credit to PDE; you must complete the above task each time you complete a course.

Remember, you need to have paid for your course and received a grade before attempting to report credits to PDE. If you are unsure - you can go to elion and check your transcript.



*New & Beginning...cont'd from p. 1)*

Surprises, well the fact that I thought fruit sales were going to be out of control, but it was so organized and ran so smoothly, it was definitely a surprise. I am surprised at the amount of time that I do not have to do things for myself, especially in the fall.

Frustrations and stress, also seem to come on a daily basis. However, I have discovered that the more smiles and the more laughs I seem to get in a day, the less frustrated and stressed out I am at the end of the day.

Each day is new and different, whether it is my attitude or the students. I have grown to love my job and enjoy each and every day. Student teaching gives you a good experience, but when it comes down to it, it is nothing like the real thing. There are so many emotions and events that occur, there is hardly time for a dull moment.

## Horticulture Institute

NEH institute for teachers — "Paradise, Pottage and Potions: The Medieval Garden," July 6 - August 1, 2003, to be held at Penn State. This institute includes lectures by internationally known experts in the field, work with master teachers, development of lesson



plans and projects related to the topic and field trips to the Cloisters museum and medieval gardens in New York City and to Jefferson's gardens at Monticello in Virginia. Stipends for expenses are available for 25 teachers. Information can be found at <http://www.psu.edu/dept/medieval/teachers.html>.



## IPM Law Update Booklet

PDA put together an IPM Legislation booklet to explain the new law and answer common questions. It is very good! Call Jim at 717-772-5204 for a copy.

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS.....**

- March 2-9 ..... Philadelphia Flower Show, Philadelphia, PA  
 March 9-11 ..... SLLC, Holiday Inn, Grantville (M. Brammer)  
 March 9-10 ..... New & Begin. Teacher Workshop, Holiday Inn, Grantville, 2:00 PM (T. Hoover)  
 March 10-14 ..... PSU Spring Break  
 March 11 ..... FFA Foundation Mtg., Harrisburg  
 March 12..... Biotechnology Workshop, Gettysburg (B. Tindall)  
 March 19..... AFY Parliamentary Procedure CDE, Northern York HS, 4:00 PM  
 March 21..... PAAE Board Mtg., PSU - 301B Ag Admin., 6:00 PM  
 March 21..... AEE Advisory Council Mtg., Hilton Garden Inn, State College, 10:00 AM  
 March 22..... PSU College of Agricultural Sciences Open House, HUB, 8:00 AM  
 March 25..... Clearfield, Clinton & Centre Co. Area Contest, Central Mt. HS, 9:00 AM  
 March 27..... PAAE Eastern Region Mtg., Twin Valley HS, 5:00 PM Dinner, 7:00 PM Mtg.  
 April 4..... PA FFA Board Mtg., PSU - 301B Ag Admin., 6:30 PM  
 April 5..... PA FFA Proficiency Evaluations, PSU - 301A Ag Admin., 8:00 AM  
 April 8..... PAAE Western Region Mtg., Hoss's - Allison Park, 6:00 PM Dinner, 7:00 PM Mtg.  
 April 9..... PAAE Southcentral Region Mtg., Cumberland Valley HS, 5:00 PM Dinner,  
 6:00 PM Mtg.  
 April 10..... PAAE Northcentral Region Mtg., Restless Oaks - McElhatten, 5/6:00 PM Dinner,  
 7:00 PM Mtg.  
 April 16..... Southcentral Parli. Pro. CDE, Farm Show Complex, Harrisburg, 9:00 AM  
 April 17..... PSU Department of AEE Banquet - Hosted by CFFA, C4-H, ATA  
 April 24..... Clearfield, Clinton & Centre Co. Area Contests, Penns Valley HS, 9:00 AM  
 April 26-29 ..... 5-Star Consortium Student Teacher Retreat, Smyrna, DE  
 May 2..... Penn State Classes End  
 May 9..... PAAE Board Mtg., DVC, 6:00 PM  
 May 16..... PA FFA Board Mtg., PSU - 301B Ag Admin., 6:30 PM  
 May 16..... PSU Commencement  
 May 19..... PSU First Six-week Summer Courses Begin  
 June 10 - 12 ..... PA FFA Activities Week, PSU  
 June 16- July 3.... AEE Three-Week Courses, PSU

**TEACHER DEADLINES.....**

- March 4..... Registration due for Biotechnology Workshop - contact Dorothy Thomas  
 March 10..... American FFA Degree Applications due to CTSO  
 April 2..... Proficiency & Entrepreneurship Applications due to Regional Coordinators  
 (Project Books Required)  
 April 15..... Dairy Showmanship Applications are due to Doug Brown, Central Columbia  
 May 1..... FFA Activities Week Entries due to P. Hoy  
 May 5..... Regional CDE Quota Results due to Regional Coordinators

Briefs to Ag Educators is a publication of the Center for Professional Personnel Development, Department of Agricultural and Extension Education, The Pennsylvania State University, 323 Agricultural Administration Bldg., University Park, PA 16802. Editors: Tiffany Hoy and Thomas Bruening.  
 Phone: 814-863-7876; Fax: 814-863-4753; email Tiffany at tmr175@psu.edu

This publication is available in alternative media on request. The Pennsylvania State University is committed to the policy that all persons shall have equal access to programs, facilities, admission, and employment without regard to personal characteristics not related to ability, performance, or qualifications as determined by state/federal authorities. The Pennsylvania State University does not discriminate against any person because of age, ancestry, color or disability or handicap, national origin, race, religious creed, sex, sexual orientation or veteran status. Direct all inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policy to the Affirmative Action Director, The Pennsylvania State University, 201 Willard Building, University Park, PA 16802-2801: Tel. (814) 863-0471; TDD (814) 865-3175.